



WDR 2008 : « Agriculture pour le Développement » - Atelier de Paris
Les organisations paysannes et rurales pour un développement durable
en faveur des pauvres

Theme n°4

RPOs, decentralization and valorization of local products from territories

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Cirad

Private and public organizations

- **RPOs**

- Production of private goods (access to credit, inputs..)
- Linkages between production of these private goods and production of public one (literacy, infrastructures, social services...)
- National and supranational federative movements : 1990's and 2000's

- **Decentralization process**

- Production of local public goods with political legitimacy through polls
- Latin America : 1980-1990 ; Africa : 1990-94

- **Issues**

Production and access to local public goods with contributions of private stakeholders (RPOs) with a different legitimacy ...

RPOs respond to social needs

- State withdrawal or « State failures » lead to lack of basic public services, without local governments
- Most of village associations are multisectorial and provide services that could be under local governments responsibility (Africa, Latin America...)
- How to adjust when local governments take over ?

Local governments as a stake for RPOs

- Agriculture (broad sense) requires land and natural resource management
- Agriculture has to share territories with other activities
- Agriculture needs infrastructures and services
- Agriculture needs social public goods to be efficient

Local governments and broader agendas

- Democratization of public debate and public life
- Strong linkages between cultural and political dimensions with specific focus in agriculture : land and natural resources linked to identity
- Implications for agricultural development
 - Insure food autonomy / security of farming systems
 - Balance risks linked to export and integration by firms
 - Promote alternative technical models (lack in research)
 - Pay more attention to sustainable management of natural resources

Local development and decentralization

- Key role for local governments in local development planning and implementation
 - Animation and priority setting
 - Provision of basic public services : health, education, domestic water...
 - Provision of infrastructures linked (or not) to economic activities
- Within this framework
 - Specific role for RPOs in their domains
 - Specific attention to donors and support agencies

Specific quality products linked to territories

- Local agrifood systems :
 - Local concentrations of production systems and small scale enterprises for food processing
 - Widespread in western Europe
 - Emerging process in tropical countries
 - From local initiatives
 - From States initiatives facing global markets with standard qualities

Three questions to shape the debate

- To what extent should RPOs be involved in the decentralization processes?
- Do decentralization policies and the interest in local development dynamics challenge the need for public policies designed at other territorial levels ? Which role for RPOs?
- Under what conditions can territorial resource valorization strategies induce sustainable local development? Which role for RPOs?